

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 28, 2003 LB 306

citizens, the most vulnerable citizens, the children, that could come in here and say, give us carte blanche to raise our budget six percent per year. Fifteen thousand children were taken off Medicaid, 13,000 adults, and the Legislature did not turn a hair when it did that. A few of us did. But the Legislature as a whole went along with it. You're following a Governor. And I saw something in the newspaper this morning that caused me to reflect on a line from that most famous of literary ventures, "The Night Before Christmas." The words that burned themselves across my mind were these: "When, what to my wondering eyes should appear," but a comment in the paper, in the form of a headline, that the Governor is protecting his Policy Research Office from cuts. And there are 33 "Repelicans" on the floor who will probably go along, because the Legislature tends to protect the Governor who is in office. The Democrats are not clear, because I had to fight them tooth and nail, and I lost, when in order to help Ben Nelson, their candidate, who had run for the U.S. Senate, wanted to make it appear that he was reducing the size of government by creating that monstrosity known as Health and Human Services. And I condemned the Democrats and said, you would not do this if a "Repelican" Governor was in place. Because I know how politicians behave, and I know how they behave on this floor. So now you have a "Repelican," and the coin flips, the worm turns, so to speak. The push me-pull you is now the pull you-push me. The roles have reversed, but the activities are the same. There is a cynicism in politics which the public is aware of, but they feel powerless to do anything about it. So those of use who take our job seriously, when we wind up in these elected assemblies, must call attention to these things and try to resist them. This fee bill is hogwash. I'd like to ask Senator Stuhr a question.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Stuhr, do you believe that public officials should be honest when dealing with the public?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes, I do.